

### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Battery separator based on thermoplastic, ultra-high molecular-weight polyolefin with an average molecular weight by weight of at least 300,000, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ comprising, relative to the sum of the weights of filler and polyolefin, 10 to 100 wt.-% polyolefin and 0 to 90 wt.-% filler, and, relative to the weight of the separator, 5 to 35 wt.-% oil and 0.5 to 5.0 wt.-% of a compound according to the Formula (I)



in which

R is a non-aromatic hydrocarbon radical with 10 to 4200 hydrocarbon atoms, which can be interrupted by oxygen atoms,

$R^1$  is H,  $-(CH_2)_kCOOM^{x+}_{1/x}$  or  $-(CH_2)_k-SO_3M^{x+}_{1/x}$ , where k is 1 or 2,

M is an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal ion,  $H^+$  or  $NH_4^+$ , where not all the M variables simultaneously have the meaning  $H^+$ ,

n is 0 or 1,

m is 0 or an integer from 10 to 1400 and

x is 1 or 2,

the ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the compound according to Formula (I) lying in the range between 1:1.5 to 1:30 and m and n not being able to simultaneously be 0.

2. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it contains a compound according to the Formula (I) in which~~ wherein

R is a hydrocarbon radical with 10 to 180 carbon atoms, which can be interrupted by 1 to 60 oxygen atoms,

n is 1,

m is 0 and

x is 1 or 2.

3. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R is a hydrocarbon radical of the formula  $R^2-[(OC_2H_4)_p(OC_3H_6)_q]-$ , in which

$R^2$  is an alkyl radical with 10 to 30 carbon atoms,

p is an integer from 0 to 30 and/or

q is an integer from 0 to 30.

4. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
p is an integer from 0 to 10 and  
q is an integer from 0 to 10.
5. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 3 ~~or 4, characterized in that~~ wherein the sum of p and q is smaller than or equal to 10.
6. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to ~~one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  $R^1$  is H.
7. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it contains a compound according to the Formula (1), in which~~ wherein  
R is an alkane radical with 20 to 4200 carbon atoms,  
M is an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal ion,  $H^+$  or  $NH_4^+$ , where not all the variables M simultaneously have the meaning  $H^+$ ,  
n is 0,  
m is an integer from 10 to 1400 and  
x is 1 or 2.

8. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R is an alkane radical with 50 to 750 carbon atoms.
9. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 7 ~~or 8, characterized in that~~ wherein the compound according to Formula (I) is a poly(meth)acrylic acid, whose acid groups are at least partly neutralized.
10. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least 40% of the acid groups of the poly(meth)acrylic acid are neutralized.
11. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to ~~one of claims 7 to 10,~~ claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein M is  $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$  or  $\text{K}^+$ .
12. (Currently amended) Battery separator according to ~~one of claims 7 to 11~~ claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the poly(meth)acrylic acid has an average molar mass  $M_w$  of 1,000 to 100,000 g/mol.
13. (Currently amended) Battery separator ~~according to one of claims 1 to 12,~~ characterized in that it contains based on thermoplastic, ultra-high molecular-weight polyolefin with an average molecular weight by weight of at least 300,000, comprising a component which, ~~can form one of the compounds named in claims 1 to 12 when~~

when the separator is used for the intended purpose,  
can form a compound of the Formula (I):



in which

R is a non-aromatic hydrocarbon radical with 10 to 4200 hydrocarbon atoms, which can be interrupted by oxygen atoms,

R<sup>1</sup> is H, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>COOM<sup>X+</sup><sub>1/x</sub> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>k</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub>M<sup>X+</sup><sub>1/x</sub>, k being 1 or 2,

M is an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal ion, H<sup>+</sup> or NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, where not all the M variables simultaneously have the meaning H<sup>+</sup>,

n is 0 or 1,

m is 0 or an integer from 10 to 1400 and

x is 1 or 2,

the ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the compound according to Formula (I) lying in the range between 1:1.5 to 1:30 and m and n not being able to simultaneously be 0.

14. (Currently amended) Lead-sulphuric acid accumulator with at least two oppositely-charged electrode plates, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ comprising at least one battery separator according to ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1.
15. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of a battery separator according to ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a compound with the Formula (I) or a solution of a compound with the

Formula (I) is applied to a battery separator and the separator is then optionally dried.

16. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of a battery separator according to ~~one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a homogenous mixture of ultra-high molecular-weight thermoplastic polyolefin, at least one compound with the Formula (I) and optionally filler and further additives are prepared, formed into a web-shaped material and then one or more of the further additives are optionally removed.
17. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a compound with the Formula (I) for the preparation of battery separators~~ Method for the preparation of battery separators comprising the addition of a compound with the Formula (I) to a separator.
18. (Currently amended) ~~Use of a compound with the Formula (I) for the improvement of the oxidation resistance of thermoplastic polymers or battery separators~~ Method for the improvement of the oxidation resistance of battery separators comprising the addition of a compound with the Formula (I) to a separator.
19. (New) Battery separator according to claim 4, wherein the sum of p and q is smaller than or equal to 10.
20. (New) Battery separator according to claim 8, wherein the compound according to Formula (I) is a

poly(meth)acrylic acid, whose acid groups are at least partly neutralized.

21. (New) Battery separator according to claim 20, wherein at least 40% of the acid groups of the poly(meth)acrylic acid are neutralized.